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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE FIFTIETH SESSION

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Letter dated 25 April 1995 from the Chargé d'affairs a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Acting upon instructions from my Government and pursuant to rule 13, paragraph (e) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I am requesting the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-parliamentary Union".

Pursuant to rule 20 of the said rules of procedure, I am enclosing herewith an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution on the subject.

(Signed) Seydina Omar DIOP
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex I

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Recent years have been marked by the rapid expansion of representative democracy throughout the world, and by enhanced activity and increased participation of the United Nations in the area of institution building. Parliament is a key institution in the organization and operation of the State. Together with the executive and the judiciary, Parliament is part of the structure of the State. Its basic role is to represent the will of the people at the level of the State. One of its many tasks is to monitor government action, to adopt laws, to ratify international conventions (many of which emanate from the United Nations) and to approve the State budget, including its contribution to international organizations such as the United Nations.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is an international organization of national parliaments and currently has 135 members. 1/ It shares the ideals and objectives of the United Nations; as a political organization it is concerned with all the issues of international interest dealt with by the United Nations. It is therefore important to strengthen cooperation at the international level between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, since their activities are mutually complementary and reinforcing.

Given the constitutional role which its members play in their respective countries, the Union must be considered an intergovernmental organization. In order to join the Union, a parliament must adopt a formal resolution to that end; the organization is financed by contributions paid by its members from

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1/ Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

State funds. The Union has concluded with the Swiss federal Government a headquarters agreement similar to those concluded by Switzerland with international organizations which have their headquarters in Switzerland.

In view of the political nature of the Union and the scope and level of its activities, it is desirable that the United Nations should conclude with the Union an agreement defining the proper context for cooperation that will enable the Parliamentary organization to contribute to the work of the main political organs of the United Nations and to United Nations international conferences.

Annex II

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

Noting that the Inter-Parliamentary Union is the international organization of national parliaments,

Considering that the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union cover issues of interest to the General Assembly and that they complement and reinforce those of the United Nations system,

Desiring to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and to place it in a formal context,

1. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the necessary steps to conclude an agreement on cooperation between the two organizations, containing provisions on consultation and cooperation in general and in the areas in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union has specific competence, providing for the possibility of joint programmes, representation of the Union in the main political organs of the United Nations and in the international conferences organized by it, and the exchange of information and documentation;

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session an item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union".